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Selected Speeches and News Releases

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Statement

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

Prepared for delivery by Ewen M. Wilson, Assistant Secretary for Economics, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., Sept. 12.

SEPTEMBER CROP PRODUCTION UPDATE

Today at 3 p.m. the U.S. Department of Agriculture released its September assessment of 1988 crop production and use. The crop assessment, based on farm surveys conducted in late August and early September, confirms earlier estimates of the impact of this summer's drought.

U.S. grain production in 1988 is now forecast at 191 million metric tons, 31 percent smaller than the 1987 crop. Total supplies of grain, which take into account the large stocks existing at the beginning of the season, are forecast at 366 million metric tons, down 24 percent from a year ago.

This month's survey of U.S. crop production once again has three components: First, a questionnaire mailed to 62,000 farmers; second, field measurements that evaluate potential yields; and third, a resurvey of a group of farmers in 10 key states who were first contacted in June. The resurvey provided an indication of acreage changes during the growing season.

Crop development now has progressed to the point where production can be forecast with a reasonable degree of confidence. This month's survey provides what we believe are reliable estimates of corn and soybean production.

During the past 23 years—from 1965 to 1987—the September estimate overstated corn production on 9 occasions and understated it on 14 occasions. In the case of soybeans, the September estimate overstated soybean production in 12 years and understated it in 11. The absolute error of the September production estimate averaged 3 percent for both corn and soybeans during this 23-year period.

This year's corn crop is estimated at 4.46 billion bushels, down 37 percent from last year. The average yield per harvested acre is 78.5 bushels, compared with 119.4 bushels in 1987, a decline of 34 percent.

The drought-induced reduction in yield is the largest on record, exceeding the 28 percent decline recorded in 1983, another drought year.

I would remind you that despite this massive drop in production, large pre-season stocks ensure that supplies will be adequate to meet domestic and export needs. Based on projected use, we estimate that stocks on hand at the end of the crop year, September 1, 1989, will total 1.6 billion bushels.

This level of ending stocks indicates that the maximum level of acreage reduction for corn in 1989 will be 12.5 percent, compared with the 20-percent with 119.4 bushels in 1987, a decline of 34 percent. The drought-induced reduction in yield is the largest on record, exceeding the 28 percent decline recorded in 1983, another drought year.

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This level of ending stocks indicates that the maximum level of acreage reduction for corn in 1989 will be 12.5 percent, compared with the 20-percent reduction in effect this year. The law requires that the acreage reduction percentage be no greater than 12.5 percent when carryover stocks are projected below 2 billion bushels. The secretary is required to announce the acreage reduction by Sept. 30, although adjustments can be made until Nov. 15.

Soybean production is estimated at 1.47 billion bushels, 23 percent below 1987. Soybean yields are expected to be 25.9 bushels per acre compared with 33.7 bushels in 1987. Our survey indicated that farmers will harvest 56.8 million acres, up slightly from a year ago.

When the soybean production figure is added to projected Sept. 1 stocks, supplies amount to 1.75 billion bushels, the lowest in 12 years. Stocks at the end of the year are projected at 100 million bushels, a relatively tight level, with higher market prices during the year likely reducing total use.

Other spring planted crops suffered major losses. Durum wheat production is estimated at 49.2 million bushels, down 47 percent from 1987. Other spring wheat at 206 million bushels is down 54 percent from last year. On the other hand, winter wheat, which normally accounts for the bulk of U.S. wheat production, totaled 1.55 billion bushels, about the same as in 1987. Production of other spring grains is down: oats, 206

million bushels, down 45 percent; barley, 287 million, down 46 percent; and sorghum, 540 million, down 27 percent.

Rainfall during the past month has improved the condition of pastures and ranges, although more precipitation is needed to restore them to normal. On Sept. 1, pastures and ranges rated at 54 of ideal compared with a rating of 51 a month ago.

This month we also have additional information on foreign production. Total grain production—wheat, coarse grains and rice—in other countries is now expected to be 1.35 billion metric tons, up 2 percent from a year ago. Production of foreign coarse grains is expected to be the third highest on record. Foreign production of wheat is expected to be the second highest ever. Foreign oilseed production is estimated at a record 152.5 million metric tons, up 5 percent from 1987.

The monsoon in India this year, unlike last year, provided excellent growing conditions and a likely record grain harvest. Crops also are larger this season in the European Community and prospects for Australian crops are favorable. However, Canadian crops have been severely impacted by the North American drought. Our estimate for coarse grain production in the Soviet Union has been lowered while our estimate of grain production in China remains unchanged from last month's estimate. We continue watching crop developments in South America, where planting of spring crops will be getting under way this month.

In summary, today's reports are a further indication that the drought has had a major impact on this year's crops. But because of large pre-season stocks, total supplies are enough in most cases to assure an adequate food supply at home, satisfy foreign customers, and meet our food aid commitments. We continue to believe that the drought will add 1 percentage point to the Consumer Price Index for food in 1988. Thus, food prices for the year may be up 3 to 5 percent. Meat supplies will remain at near-record levels this fall and winter because of large pork and poultry supplies.

Our next production report will be issued on Oct. 12.

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News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9, through 12:00 midnight Thursday, Sept. 15.

Since the AWP is less than the 1987-crop and 1988-crop base quality loan rates of 52.25 and 51.80 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate for 1987-crop and 1988-crop upland cotton during this period is equal to the AWP adjusted for the specific quality and location.

Since the AWP is less than the 1986-crop base quality loan repayment rate of 44 cents per pound, first handler certificates will be issued to eligible first handlers with respect to 1986-crop upland cotton pledged as loan collateral that is redeemed with cash during this period.

The first handler payment rate will equal the difference between the loan repayment rate (80 percent of the 1986-crop loan rate for the specific quality and location) and the AWP (adjusted to the specific quality and location and, if applicable, the coarse count adjustment) in effect during this period. Payment will be made in the form of a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for upland cotton or extra long staple cotton.

Because the loan repayment rate for 1988-crop upland cotton in effect during this period is less than the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo loan eligibility on their 1988-crop upland cotton. The payment rate for cotton sold during this period will equal the difference between the loan rate and the loan repayment rate.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending Sept. 8, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price 56.66

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 11.57

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 2.00

Average U.S. location42

Sum of Adjustments -13.99

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 42.67 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price 56.66

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price -51.32

5.34

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton -4.15

-1.19

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made Sept. 15.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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USDA PROPOSES CHANGING SOME MECHANICALLY SEPARATED SPECIES LABEL REQUIREMENTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting comments on a proposal to change the labeling requirements for products that contain 10 percent or less of mechanically separated meat.

Mechanically separated meat is produced by feeding carcass bones, from which most of the muscle tissue has been removed, through specialized equipment. This equipment pushes the parts through minute openings under high pressure, allowing the meat which may contain small amounts of powdered bone to pass through. The ingredient has been approved for use since 1978. Some of the products in which it may be used include meat patties, cooked sausage, frankfurters and luncheon meats.

Under the current regulations, products containing the ingredients must note it in the ingredient statement—for example, “mechanically separated pork,” and also, in certain cases, the per-serving calcium content.

Under the proposed rule, mechanically separated meat used in meat and poultry products would not have to be listed in the ingredients statement on the label as long as it does not exceed 10 percent of the meat and poultry portion of the finished product. Also, the product's label would have to indicate the percentage of the Recommended Daily Allowance of calcium it contained.

The proposal reflects a petition submitted to USDA by four firms: Bob Evans Farms Inc., Columbus, Ohio; Odom Sausage Co., Madison, Tenn; Sara Lee Corp., Memphis, Tenn.; and Owen Country Sausage, Inc., Richardson, Texas.

USDA published the petition in the Federal Register on April 3, 1987, and requested comments. Of the 134 comments received, 123 supported the changes.

Comments on the proposed regulation should be sent by Nov. 8 to: Policy Office, Attn: Linda Carey, Hearing Clerk, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3171,-S Washington, D.C. 20250.

Notice of this request appeared in the Sept. 9 Federal Register.

Jane Adams (202) 447-7943

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USDA AND FDA LAUNCH SALMONELLA ENTERITIDIS PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration will distribute 50,000 Safe Egg-Handling Bulletins this week as part of a public awareness campaign aimed at high-risk populations, food service establishments and consumers. High-risk populations who are particularly vulnerable to Salmonella enteritidis infections are: the elderly, the very young, pregnant women (because of risk to the fetus), and those already weakened by serious illness or whose immune systems are weakened.

In the bulletins, directed at consumers and food service institutions, USDA and FDA said raw eggs that were contaminated with Salmonella enteritidis bacteria have caused some recent outbreaks of foodborne illness. Eggs remain an important, wholesome food, the agencies said, and the risk of contracting salmonellosis from raw or undercooked eggs is small. But special precautions are needed when eggs are served to

people in high-risk categories who are especially vulnerable to Salmonella enteritidis infections.

The bulletins dealing with safe egg-handling will be distributed this week to consumer and food service industry organizations and publications which will supply the information to thousands of their readers or members, said Dr. Kenneth A. Gilles, USDA assistant secretary for marketing and inspection service “Our public awareness efforts also will include development of comprehensive information and guidelines for the poultry industry and food retailers,” he said.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Frank E. Young said, “We’re not saying, ‘Don’t eat eggs.’ We’re saying take precautions: cook eggs thoroughly, and avoid raw eggs.” He said that much of the information contained in today’s bulletins reiterates current guidelines on safe food-handling practices. Young and Gilles, however, stressed the three important recommendations from the bulletins sent out today that are directed specifically to the high-risk populations:

- Avoid eating raw eggs and foods containing raw eggs—homemade products such as Caesar salad dressing and Hollandaise sauce, for example, and homemade products such as ice cream, eggnog and mayonnaise. Commercial forms of these products are safe to serve since they are made with pasteurized eggs—commercial pasteurization destroys Salmonella bacteria.

- Cook eggs thoroughly until both yolk and white are firm, not runny, to kill any bacteria that may be present. There may be some risk in eating eggs lightly cooked, soft-cooked, soft-scrambled, or sunny-side up.

- Realize that eating lightly cooked foods containing eggs, such as soft custards, meringues and French toast, also may be risky for people with weakened immune systems and other high-risk groups.

Other practices recommended for both consumers and the food service industry include:

- Use grade AA or A eggs with clean, uncracked shells, preferably stored under refrigeration.

- Refrigerate eggs in their original carton as soon as possible at a maximum temperature of 40 degrees F. Do not wash eggs before storing or using them; commercial egg processing routinely includes washing.

- Use raw shell eggs within five weeks and hard-cooked eggs in one week; leftover whites and yolks should be used within four days.

- Avoid keeping eggs out of the refrigerator for more than two hours, including time for preparing and serving, but not cooking. For egg hunts

where eggs are hidden, the two-hour rule should be followed or the eggs should not be eaten.

—Wash hands, utensils, equipment and work areas with hot soapy water before and after they come in contact with eggs and egg-rich foods (foods with eggs as the main ingredient such as quiches and baked custards).

—Serve eggs and egg-rich foods immediately after cooking, or refrigerate at once to serve later. Use within three-to-four days.

—When refrigerating a large amount of a hot egg-rich dish or leftover, divide it into several shallow containers so it will cool quickly.

Food service institutions are further advised to:

—Cook scrambled eggs in small batches no larger than three quarts until no liquid egg is visible. Hold for serving at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, such as on a steamtable (*Salmonella enteritidis* does not reproduce at 140 degrees.) Do not add a batch of just-cooked scrambled eggs to leftover eggs held on a steamtable.

—Review recipes and food-handling practices to consider substitution of pasteurized egg products for shell eggs. (The bulletin for the food service industry also provides handling guidelines to avoid other forms of contamination of pasteurized egg products which already are *Salmonella*-free.)

In April, the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, reported more than 2,000 cases of *Salmonella enteritidis* in the Northeast from January 1985 to May 1987, including 11 deaths. CDC said fresh table eggs usually are the food link to these infections. Preliminary evidence indicates the bacteria can be transmitted directly from infected hens into the egg interior before a shell forms. On Aug. 19, CDC reported *Salmonella enteritidis* infections had spread to the East North Central, Mountain and Pacific regions of the country.

For more information on handling eggs safely, call USDA's toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline, 1-800-535-4555. In the Washington, D.C. area, call (202) 447-3333. Hotline hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT.

George Clarke (202) 447-8998

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USDA SETS OUTLOOK CONFERENCE FOR NOV. 29 - DEC. 1

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold Outlook '89, its 65th annual Outlook Conference, here Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, Ewen M. Wilson, assistant secretary of agriculture for economics, announced today.

“Top government and industry analysts will assess the impact of the 1988 drought and discuss 1989 prospects for farmers and consumers,” Wilson said.

Outlook '89 will begin at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 29, with an overview of the U.S. economy, agriculture and farm trade. That afternoon, prominent industry leaders will discuss the importance of marketing and its use in expanding markets for farm products.

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, the conference will feature forecasts for major farm commodities, such as wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton and meat. Other sessions will focus on topics of current interest, including food prices, water quality, conservation, aquaculture, and transportation.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, sessions will explore the significance of the drought for 1989 and beyond, farm income prospects, and farm credit restructuring. At the final session, moderated by Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng, U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter is scheduled to speak on trade issues. The session will end with a discussion of farm policy during the next administration. The conference will conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Audio cassettes of each session will be sold during and after the conference. A proceedings will be published in early 1989. The registration packet includes advance order forms.

Registration is free, but early registration is strongly advised. For a program and registration packet, call (202) 447-3050, or write Outlook '89, Room 5143-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-3900.

OUTLOOK '89 PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 12th and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 1988

Jefferson Auditorium

10:00 Opening
 10:15 Economic Outlook
 10:50 U.S. and World Agricultural Outlook
 11:25 Agricultural Trade Outlook
 12:00 Lunch
 Plenary Session: Commodity Marketing Opportunities and Challenges
 1:30 Keynote
 2:00 What Tomorrow's Customers Want
 3:15 Building a Marketing Strategy
 4:00 Panel: Marketing Demand and Marketing Strategies
 5:00 Adjourn
 5:15-7:00 Reception

Wednesday, Nov. 30

	Jefferson Aud. Patio	107A	3501S	5066S
8:30	Food Grains Cotton	Dairy	Forest Products	Aquaculture
9:45	Feed Grains Sweeteners	Fruit and Vegetables	Dairy Followup	Cotton Followup
11:00	Oilseeds Nutrition	Sweeteners	Fruit/Veg. Followup	Tobacco
12:00	Lunch			
1:30	Livestock Outlook	Grains Followup	Transportation	Family Economics
2:45	Livestock Outlook	Oilseeds Followup	Water Quality	Family Economics, cont'd.
4:00	Livestock Marketing	Rural Development	Conservation	Food Prices
5:00	Adjourn			
Evening	Dinners for Cotton, Sweeteners			

Thursday, Dec. 1

	Jefferson Auditorium	Patio
8:30	Future Significance of the 1988 Drought	Farm Finance and Credit
10:50	GATT/Trade Issues	
11:30	Farm Policy Challenges for the Next Administration	
12:30	Adjourn	

Ray Bridge (202) 447-5447

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USDA ESTABLISHES MARIJUANA HOTLINE

SACRAMENTO, Calif, Sept. 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a nationwide, toll-free number so concerned citizens can report marijuana cultivation and other drug trafficking activities occurring on national forests.

The toll-free hotline number is: 1-800-73 CRIME (in California call 1-800-78 CRIME). The hotline is always staffed and callers are assured of anonymity.

“This hotline is the latest step in USDA’s continuing effort to stop the increasing use of the national forests for the cultivation of marijuana,” Assistant Secretary of Agriculture George S. Dunlop said today at CAMP (Californians Against Marijuana Planting) headquarters here. “By calling this number, the public can make a positive contribution toward eliminating criminal use of these lands administered by USDA’s Forest Service.”

Dunlop said callers may receive rewards of up to \$5,000 for supplying information which leads to the seizure of cultivated marijuana or other drugs manufactured on national forest system lands in 44 states. Rewards will also be available for those who use the hotline to provide information leading to the prosecution of persons involved in illegal drug-production activities on national forests.

“In addition to the hotline, USDA and other federal agencies have begun a national campaign for a “Drug-Free America,” Dunlop said. “This campaign will merge our efforts with those of thousands of private groups to create a comprehensive, nationwide effort to discourage drug use and to increase public awareness of the devastating effects of drug abuse.”

National forests have become increasingly popular sites for illegal marijuana cultivation because of their remote location. Today, marijuana cultivation is estimated to be a billion dollar industry on the national forests.

“In addition to engaging in an illegal activity, marijuana growers are using booby traps, armed intimidation, and other tactics to keep the public from entering some areas of the national forests,” Dunlop said. “The new hotline should be of major benefit in returning these lands to the rightful use of the American public.”

In Washington, Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said “We are looking forward to providing the public this opportunity to help rid the national forest system of marijuana and other drug impacts. The Forest Service will coordinate with state and local law enforcement agencies to take cooperative action on all information received over the hotline from concerned citizens.”

Jay Humphreys (202) 447-4211

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 10.43 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.57 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.48 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.22 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987 crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988 crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.28 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.96 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.78 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Sept. 20 at 3:00 P.M. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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JURY STILL OUT ON NO-TILL AND THE DROUGHT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—No-till, a popular conservation tillage method that requires planting a new crop in the residue of the previous crop, is facing increased evaluation as a result of this year's severe drought.

"Farmers should not be in a hurry to abandon no-till based on its showing during this year's drought," said Wilson Scaling, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

"In average and limited drought years, no-till generally results in better yields than conventional tillage, and we have those conditions more often than we have the extended drought conditions we're experiencing this year."

"We're joining farmers and researchers in determining how no-till is faring in this drought," Scaling said. "It's too early to tell. We still need to evaluate crop yields among various systems before we can make comparisons."

SCS field reports to date indicate:

—Conditions seem to vary depending on soils, cropping patterns, time of spring planting and spotty rainfall. Illinois reports that fields no-tilled for several years looked better than those that were in their first or second year of no-till. One farmer who had no-tilled for 5-6 years said his corn looked as good as any conventionally tilled in his neighborhood. Fields seemed to look better where a combination of tillage and no-till was used—such as planting no-till corn into soybean residue and then chisel or conventional tilling corn residue to plant soybeans.

—Kentucky reports that no-till corn planted in soybean, small grain, or corn residue from the previous year looks better than conventional corn. No-till soybeans planted after small grain (double cropped) look very promising.

—Some no-till corn has withstood the drought better than conventional till. No-till looks better than spring plowed crops on similar soil and

management conditions. Growth rate of no-till was slower than conventional fall till and was later in tasselling. Depending on rainfall, this could place no-till in a much more favorable weather period. Many no-till corn fields following soybeans are surviving the drought as well or better than conventional fall plowed or fall chiseled fields, and the no-till fields will have the advantage for the rest of the growing season.

—The drought has caused severe soil surface crusting on many no-till fields, resulting in slow growth of no-till corn or severely stunted or dying stands due to dry conditions and poor root growth.

—Crops have suffered where they were no-tilled into a living cover crop which was killed after planting. Cover crops proved detrimental this year because they depleted desperately needed early spring soil moisture. As a result, some seedlings did not germinate and those that did were severely stunted

Kathy Gugulis (202) 447-9149

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FOREST SERVICE DESIGNATES NINE SCENIC BYWAYS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has added nine picturesque roads to the National Forest Scenic Byways System established earlier this year, bringing the total to 10.

Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said the roads provide motorists with opportunities to view scenic beauty, wildlife and national forest management along 560 miles of highways in seven states.

“The National Forest Scenic Byways System showcases some of the nation's most spectacular and diverse landscape,” Robertson said. “It gives our most numerous recreational customers, the motorists driving for pleasure, opportunities to enjoy the uniqueness of their national forests.”

The first scenic byway was designated in July on the Cherokee National Forest in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. The new byways include:

—Arizona: White Mountains Scenic Highway passes through 123 miles of ponderos pine forests, across several mountain streams, and crosses through an area rich in Apache Indian culture. Located on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in eastern Arizona.

Apache Trail consists of 78 miles of awe-inspiring desert scenery along state Highway 88 on the Tonto National Forest. Less than 30 miles from Phoenix, the byway features impressive rock formations, giant saguaro cactus, and narrow canyons.

Coronado Trail scenic byway covers 123 miles of U.S. Highway 666 from Clifton to Springerville and follows the path of Coronado's conquistadores in their search for the legendary seven cities of gold. Mountains, lakes, forests, and meadows abound on this route through the Apache- Sitgreaves National Forest.

—California: Carson Pass Highway covering 59 miles on state Highway 88 from Dew Drop to Woodfords through the Eldorado and Toiyabe National Forests in northern California. Considered to be one of the most beautiful of trans- Sierra highways, it has won national honors for its design and scenic vistas.

—New Hampshire: Kancamagus Highway covering 28 miles on state Highway 112 through the White Mountain National Forest from Conway to Lincoln. One of the best highways in America for viewing fall foliage, it also offers a wide array of recreational opportunities.

—New Mexico: Sandia Crest Road offers an 11-mile drive through high desert scenery on state Highway 536 through the Cibola National Forest in central New Mexico.

—Utah: Ashley National Forest scenic byway covering 45 miles on U.S. Highway 191 and state Highway 44 from Vernal to Manila. Provides motorists with an educational look at five distinct types of environments ranging from deserts to alpine vegetation.

—Utah: Logan Canyon Highway covering 39 miles on U.S. Highway 89 from Logan to Bear Lake features a drive along the Logan River, mountains, unusual rock formations, and an outstanding overlook.

—Wyoming: Snowy Range Highway covering 29 miles on state Highway 130 through the Medicine Bow National Forest in southeastern Wyoming, features 12,000-foot high Medicine Bow Peak, several great campgrounds and two winter sports areas.

During the next few months, additional highways will be added to the new National Forest Scenic Byways System, Robertson said.

Jay Humphreys (202) 447-4211

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